

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method for establishing a long distance call connection between call stations over the PSTN initiates a call connection request from a desktop application adapted to operate locally on a user workstation. The desktop application communicates call connection information to a long distance service provider server without requiring a web browser when a request is initiated by a user. Call connection information is processed by the long distance service provider server and an information packet is sent to a call controller, to effect a call connection over the PSTN via a TDM toll switch. A communication connection with the long distance service provider server is automatically established by the desktop application when a request is initiated, and subsequently released when the call connection request is received and processed by the long distance service provider.

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